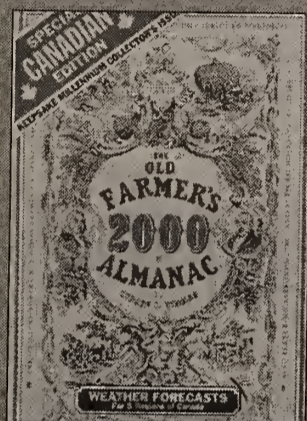


# SPOKE

## Conestoga College, Kitchener

SEPTEMBER 20, 1999

### What's Inside



Almanac predicts weather for 2000.

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Comedian teaches tolerance with humour.

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Weird Al just gets weirder and weirder.

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Human rights battle rages on



(Left to right) Rene Beaulieu, London Protection International; Sgt. Rod Curran, training and education officer for Guelph police service; Don Douglas, co-ordinator of police foundations/LASA programs; and Brian Cunningham, deputy chief of Waterloo regional police service. For additional photos see page 5.

(Photo by Lesley Turnbull)

### Police speak to police foundations program

## Seminar urges students to exceed standards

By Lesley Turnbull

Police officers from Waterloo Region and representatives of the private security sector spoke at the first career orientation seminar for second-year students of the police foundations/law and security administration program Sept. 10.

Seven police officers and 10 members of the private security sector were guest speakers at the seminar.

Don Douglas, co-ordinator of the program, said the seminar helps students to refine their portfolios and resumes and shows them what employers are looking for.

Students were told that expecta-

tions for graduates of both programs are high.

"We want great performance from our graduates," said Joe Martin, dean of the school of applied arts.

Students of the police foundations program were told that many different factors are involved in choosing a candidate for a job with a police force.

Conflict-resolution skills, good communication skills and ethical and professional behaviour are some of the important factors.

"You will be a great candidate if you exceed in these areas," said Sgt. Barry Zehr, who is with human resources for the Waterloo regional police service.

Sgt. Bert Brown, training officer for the Stratford police service, said students will only get back what they put into their job.

Continuous learning was stressed during the law and security administration seminar.

"Take courses," said Joe Strgar, a member of the account services team and corporate resource group for Intercon Security. "It looks good on your resume and it shows you're willing to improve."

Doug Henrich, ISO 9000 co-ordinator for Intercon Security, said that after 20 years in the business he's still learning, evolving and growing.

See LASA - Page 2

### Parking spaces sold out

## Overselling of parking decals administrative error says Tibbits

By Anna Sajfert

The overselling of parking lot decals was an administrative error, Conestoga president John Tibbits told the Sept. 13 college council meeting.

"No one alerted anyone on time," he said.

All 2,500 parking permits were sold by Sept. 9, according to Al Hunter, supervisor of security services.

Hunter said the campus security office could not provide an exact number of students lacking parking

access. However, he said a waiting list for parking space requests will be issued before Sept. 17.

Students who wish to be reimbursed because there are not enough spaces should go to security services office and their names will also be placed on the waiting list.

"We have more students than parking spaces," said Hunter, who added that college staff and students have equal parking access.

Hunter said college administration is considering two measures, alternative parking and additional

parking spaces.

The speed skating oval, located behind the Kenneth E. Hunter recreation centre, is being considered as a temporary solution to the shortage of parking spaces. A long-term solution, however, would be to create 40 to 100 spaces in lots 1 and 12.

Hunter said a single parking space costs approximately \$1,000 and the projected number of parking spaces required depends on the level of demand.

See Decals - Page 2

## DSA denies money misuse

By Brad Dugard

An anonymous letter received by Spoke alleges that the Doon Student Association has misused students' money by purchasing

parking passes for its executive members and employees.

However, the DSA denies it misused the funds.

Jenn Hussey, DSA vice-president, said at least the past three years we

have paid for parking for our employees, it is just one of the perks that we give to them," said Jenn Hussey, DSA vice-president of operations.

"This year for the first year we have paid for our (student-elected) executives (to park). That came out of a discussion about executive wages. It was a bonus for all the hard work the executive did over the summer."

Hussey said the executive is

See DSA - Page 2

## Don't abuse your e-mail: McGregor

By Phil Wright

Conestoga's principal hopes students heed the lesson of a journalism student who nearly received a four-month suspension after an adventure in cyberspace.

Grant McGregor wants students to learn to appreciate the intended value of e-mail, instead of using it for questionable or offensive purposes.

"What we are not doing here is providing, at a large chunk of public expense, a medium for students to transmit material which may either be offensive, inappropriate or indeed pornographic or demeaning," said McGregor.

See E-mail - Page 2

# United Way says thanks

By Anna Sajfert

Conestoga College council held its first fall-semester meeting on Sept. 13 at the Doon campus.

## United Way update

Ingrid Havel-Town, development officer for the United Way in Kitchener-Waterloo, thanked Conestoga College for raising over \$33,000 in last year's campaign. The next campaign runs from Oct. 18 to 25.

She added this year's target is to

raise \$4 million. Havel-Town demonstrated the essence of the social service safety net. She asked all council members to sit back in their chairs and answer "yes" to questions, such as "Did you ever have to use CPR, unemployment, disability or counselling?"

Ten out of 13 members were able to recall at least one of the four situations.

Eleanor Conlin, chair of academic research and educational services, said organizers intend to increase awareness of the campaign this year.

## Computing facilities

The college is considering whether to purchase additional Digital Video & Image Processing (DVPs) and Robotel software. Conestoga President John Tibbits said if the software is durable, the college will place three additional orders within the coming months. He also said the cost would determine the number of purchases, adding the budget for capital equipment is limited.

Robotel is a video linking system that facilitates student-instructor interaction.

## Waterloo's IT

Tibbits said he has great visions for Waterloo's Information Technologies campus, which recently underwent a 60,000-sq. foot expansion. He said it was remodeled to look like a private sector Information Technologies centre.

Currently there are four labs at the campus, but the college expects to have an additional six or seven after February 2000. They will cost approximately \$4.6 million, he said.

Tibbits added new partnerships

between the college and Hewlett Packard, as well as IBM are being considered.

The Waterloo campus will focus strictly on Information Technologies, communications and some business programs.

## International students

The number of international students entering Conestoga College is growing. Tibbits said the expected number is between 100 and 150 for the year 1999/00 as compared to 49 for the year 1998/99.

## E-mail policies to be reviewed

*Continued from page one...*

Petra Lampert, a second-semester journalism student, sent an e-mail to some of her classmates. It contained criticisms of one of her instructors, Jason Gennings.

Gennings, who teaches both desktop publishing and press photography, graduated from the journalism program in February and began teaching in May. Though the content of the e-mail was troubling to Gennings, he was also concerned because he felt he had addressed problems with the class.

"I was a little disappointed the communication in the classroom broke down so badly," said Gennings. "I thought we now had a better dialogue."

The e-mail was brought to the attention of college officials who decided to suspend Lampert until the fall semester ended.

Lampert appealed the decision and her four-month suspension was overturned. However, she was put on probation for the remainder of her studies at Conestoga. She must also write letters of apology to both Gennings and the journalism department and take a course in ethics in which she must write a paper about ethics in journalism.

College policy regarding the transmission of objectionable material is outlined in the college's Internet lab policies, drafted in 1997.

According to the policy, "College equipment must not be used . . . to 'flame' or harass other users with inappropriate messages . . . or to engage in any other practice which violates the intended use."

Drafting policies is one thing but the reality of the matter is students often abuse e-mail and surf the Internet with reckless abandon, said McGregor. The Internet is being used for things that are frankly either frivolous or inappropriate, he said.

"It seems indicative to me that the two most popular sites generally are sports and sex."

As a result of this incident, McGregor said the college would re-evaluate its Internet and e-mail policies. He said he is hopeful some long-term benefit will come from the exercise.

The college will review its practices and policies to determine if there are areas which should be re-examined, tightened up or changed and that will continue, he said.

"It's all part of the process of continuous improvement."

What students must be aware of, according to McGregor, is that parties beyond the intended recipient can receive an e-mail transmission. He reached this conclusion after the college studied the path of an e-mail.

There were 16 different "hops" before it reached its ultimate destination, said McGregor, and at any point there's a possibility for that message to go astray.

"I was bouncing all over North America," he said. "Once you're out in cyberspace, you're all over the place."

Policing college e-mail activity is extremely difficult, given the sheer volume of messages transmitted, said McGregor. Moreover, schools are less restrictive with their resources than industry. A number of companies have far more stringent conditions and monitoring processes, he said.

"In that sense we're very open and very relaxed. We respect the privacy of the individual transmitting," McGregor said.

Despite the difficulties in policing the Internet, McGregor said the college must adhere to Internet protocol, obligating the school to identify the originator of offensive material. But the whole process can only be instigated once a complaint is launched. With the pace of technological advances policing will become increasingly challenging.

"The whole area is a bit like the 'Wild West' happening out there," he said. "Changes are going to be massive over the next 10 to 15 years."

## Parking perk DSA explains employee passes

*Continued from page one...*

Hussey said the executive is among the lowest paid among the other Ontario colleges and the paid parking was used as a supplement to their base salary.

"There were reasons for it. If you break down the (number) of hours (the executive members) work it comes out to about a buck an hour (that they get paid)."

She said the association pays for four staff members and eight executive members to park at a cost of \$1,896.

"We try to be as accountable as

possible to the students," Hussey said.

Fanshawe College's vice-president of finance said paying perks to executive members is not unusual for student associations.

"We pay \$96 towards either a bus pass or parking pass for our executive members and our executive earns more than Conestoga's (does)," she said.

A vice-president on Fanshawe's executive earns \$3,750 per school year compared to \$2,200 at Conestoga.

Fanshawe also has a full-time,

paid president compared to Conestoga's part-time president who only makes \$300 more per year than the vice-presidents.

Renie Steel, an administrative assistant at Sir Sandford Fleming College, said their executive doesn't receive any perks, but they do earn more than at Conestoga.

The student association president makes \$270 per month, while vice-presidents make \$240.

She said Conestoga's pay rate and bonus doesn't seem out of line with other colleges in the province.

## Seminar refines portfolios

*Continued from page one...*

Doug Henrich, ISO 9000 co-ordinator for Intercon Security, said that after 20 years in the business he's still learning, evolving and growing.

Brown and Zehr said they love their jobs.

Brown said being a police officer is not an easy life but he has enjoyed every minute of it.

"Congratulations are in order because you have chosen a profession that is extremely rewarding," Brown said.

Zehr agreed with Brown, stating that from his perspective it's the best job in the world.

Students were told that jobs are available in both policing and in the private sector.

Zehr said the Waterloo regional police are going to be hiring a fair number of officers in the future.

At Intercon Security, Strgar said there is a lot of room to advance and Henrich added that the people they train become ambassadors for the company.

Gord Miller, chairman of the police foundations/LASA program advisory committee and retired deputy chief of the Waterloo regional police service, said the committee has a commitment to the students' at Conestoga. Members of the advisory committee are urged to sit in on classes as well as answer any questions a student might have.

"There is a wealth of experience

(on the committee)," said Miller.

The committee is composed of 18 members including police officers, members of the private sector, students and staff of the college.

Students from both programs regrouped to hear Zehr speak on ethical issues in law enforcement.

"Ethical behaviour means a lot in the field you're about to enter," Zehr said.

Zehr warned students that employers will look at the students' whole life because in law enforcement, past behaviour affects future behaviour.

"I want to leave you with this," said Zehr. "Your test starts now, make sure when the time comes you're ready for us."

## Waiting list for parking decals

*Continued from page one...*

Tibbits said the shortage resulted because enrolment increased 2.6 per cent in September.

Hunter said he would like to ask the students to be patient and share rides.

"Obviously we're very concerned," he said.

He added students should

refrain from parking in illegal spots such as fire routes. A \$15 parking ticket will be given to those parked illegally.

"We take no pleasure in handing out parking tickets," said Hunter, adding the money collected in parking tickets goes to the City of Kitchener, not the college.

## Correction

In an article on the college health office in the orientation issue, several errors were made.

The cost of doctors' notes start at \$5, health sciences students must pay a small service fee for vaccinations and they do not need to bring a health card when visiting a vaccination clinic.

Students visiting the health office need to bring a health card only if they wish to see a doctor.

Spoke apologizes for these errors and any inconvenience.

# College wants to improve

By Phil Wright

## Despite No.1 ranking, review under way

Most of us strive for continuous improvement but in reality it is an intimidating undertaking.

However, for one Conestoga official such an occupational hazard is most welcome.

Eleanor Conlin, Conestoga's chair of academic research and educational services, said despite the college's success in a recent province-wide satisfaction survey, improvements are possible.

"We may be number 1 this year," said Conlin, "but all the other colleges want to be number 1 too, so we can't stand still."

Conestoga was tops in graduate employment, graduate satisfaction, tied for first in overall student satisfaction and was number

1 in quality of services and quality of facilities/resources.

The first-ever independent survey of Ontario's community colleges was conducted in February in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Training.

### Accountability

The colleges undertook the project to establish accountability and excellence referred to as Key Performance Indicators.

Though college administration was elated by the survey results, they established a KPI response committee.

"We've got to improve and the

survey showed us some areas that have to be improved," said Conlin.

One of the initiatives of the committee is to hold focus groups that are mandated to determine strengths and deficiencies in specific academic programs.

Unlike the KPI survey, focus groups include the participation of faculty.

"Focus groups provide an opportunity for us to dialogue with students and faculty to find how we can do better. We can't stand still, we need to improve," said Conlin.

At this time a number of programs have been identified for focus group participation.

"We're looking at 11 programs," said Conlin, "and we're looking for best practises and areas to improve."

Once they are identified, said Conlin, there will be some professional development changes or teacher-training sessions, if deemed necessary.

These programs were not selected because they scored particularly high or low in the survey, according to Conlin. They represented a cross-section of the programs offered at all of Conestoga's campuses.

"You want some at every school, you want some that scored very high, you want some that could

improve in different areas."

Because of the decreased activity in the summer semester, journalism and robotics, which offer a summer semester, participated in focus group pilot projects.

"We tried it out in the summer and now what we're doing is refining that plan and talking to the parties that we need to talk to in order to make announcements in the future," said Conlin.

More information on these focus groups will explain to students how they work and who will be involved.

A DSA poster, urging students to familiarize themselves with the KPI initiative, has been posted in the health services department. Another survey will be conducted in February.

## On the cutting edge



Dann Gull, a New Jersey-born magician, juggles knives at one of his afternoon street shows on Carden Street in Guelph.

(Photo by Anna Sajfert)

# Humber College bounced from basketball tourney

By Walerian Czarnecki

Humber College's Hawks will not be participating in a November basketball tournament hosted by the University of Ottawa because it is a community college.

Jack Eisemann, University of Ottawa coach, has informed Doug Fox, Humber's athletic director, that the invitation to the tournament has been rescinded.

Two other teams were to take part, the University of McGill Redmen and the University of Prince Edward Island Panthers. Like Ottawa's Gee-Gees, both are members of the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union. The University of Western Ontario Mustangs have filled Humber's place.

McGill University basketball coach Ken Schildroth told the

Globe and Mail, "he would rather play universities, because of the different types of streams, different types of people and different types of athletes between colleges and universities."

Humber coach Mike Katz said university coaches look down at community colleges, which have a different curriculum. McGill rarely competes against colleges.

Katz said the universities have an elitist attitude, and that it reflects a mindset within the university community. He said the universities consider that neither education nor athletics at the community-college level should be regarded as serious endeavours.

Katz remembers that the McGill Redmen complained when they had to play the Hawks at a tournament four

years ago. Schildroth denies the allegation.

Eisemann said coaches have to make many decisions regarding schedules, especially in light of academic cutbacks in sports. Exhibition games against community college teams are not counted in national top-10 rankings.

"When you have a limited number of games, you have to try to get as many university teams as you can," he said.

Eisemann, who organizes the tournaments, said McGill did not pressure him, but he was told there would probably not have been a tournament if Humber were allowed to play.

In the past 12 years Humber has captured four Canadian Colleges Athletic titles. They have also won 223 games, while losing just 43 over that time period.

# University of Waterloo renovations complete

By Walerian Czarnecki

Major renovations to laboratories in the faculties of science, engineering and environmental studies at the University of Waterloo have been completed. The improvements will provide modern facilities for teaching and research activities.

Utility renovations will improve air quality and reduce energy consumption.

The \$2.7 million project was funded under the Canada/Ontario Infrastructure Works program, with the provincial government, the federal government and the University of Waterloo contributing one-third of the total cost.

Under phase one of the Canada/Ontario Infrastructure Works program, three programs totaling over \$5.5 million were implemented at the university. It included construction of an addition to the School of Optometry and an addition to the B.C. Matthews Hall as well as upgrades to student residences.

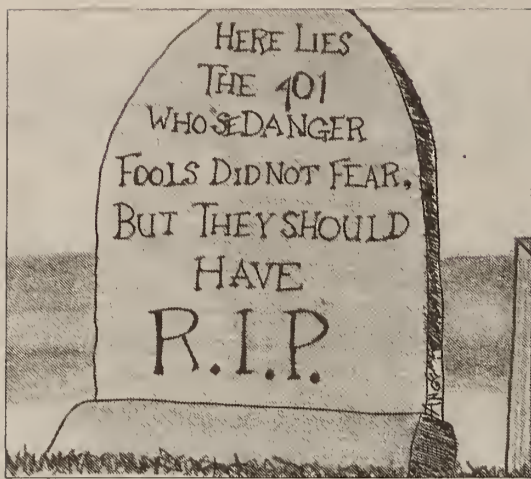
Elizabeth Witmer, Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and MPP for Kitchener-Waterloo, Andrew Telegdi, MP for Kitchener-Waterloo, and David Johnston, president of the University of Waterloo were on hand for the plaque presentation ceremony held on Sept. 7.

## Music to the ears



Han Bennink, Dutch drummer and multi-instrumentalist, is known internationally for mixing sounds from unlikely and untraditional objects. He played at the Guelph Jazz Festival on Sept. 11.

(Photo by Anna Sajfert)



## PM made the right choice

The formula for selecting the Governor General of Canada has changed — drastically.

The change in tradition signals a new stage in Canada's history, a change which is a strong first step into the next millennium.

Prime Minister Jean Chretien made the announcement on Sept. 8 that Adrienne Clarkson and her new husband (but longtime partner) John Ralston Saul are the power couple that will lead this country into the 21st century.

Clarkson will be the second woman, and the first refugee to Canada, to act as the Queen's representative in this country.

Having come to Canada from Hong Kong in 1942, Clarkson is particularly suited to represent Canada through a turning point of history.

With a growing population of Asian immigrants and the ongoing attempts by the federal government to provide equal opportunity to women, this move by Chretien should be applauded as a positive step to recognize Canada's "vertical mosaic" of people.

Chretien said, after the much-criticized appointment of the former Governor General Romeo LeBlanc, that the position requires someone with political savvy. Clarkson is notably lacking in that department, but Saul is not.

Having written three non-fiction books, primarily about the failings of capitalism, Saul is no green horn when it comes to dealing with political issues.

The appointment of a Governor General without political experience is a precedent in Ottawa.

In the early years of the Dominion, the Governor General was appointed by the Crown, usually to a British noble.

This held true for some time but eventually the duty of picking the head-of-state was left to the prime minister, at least in practice, as the Crown still has to give final approval to the decision.

In the early 1950s, when Louis St. Laurent was prime minister, the governor general was picked from the ranks of the ruling party — Liberals chose Liberals and Tories chose Tories. The position was in danger of becoming nothing more than a high profile patronage appointment, much like the position of senator is today.

But Chretien broke that habit by selecting a person with no political ties, a person who among other things, considers herself an impartial journalist.

Saul, on the other hand, does have a political agenda, but one which is vastly different than the prime minister. No patronage there either.

Clarkson and Saul will be able to lead this country into the next millennium by representing all the people of Canada and without the usual criticism of patronage.

That is a welcome change.

# Rights battle rages: Supreme Court says tests discriminate

Should society be expected to put lives at risk in order to accommodate under-qualified women in non-traditional occupations? This is the question foremost in my mind after a recent ruling by the nation's top court, which found tough fitness requirements for firefighters discriminated against women.



Jeanette Everall

The unanimous Supreme Court of Canada decision found the B.C. government showed insufficient evidence a tough fitness standard was needed to identify firefighters capable of working safely and efficiently.

Not only will the outcome of this case have a national impact, but it also strikes at the heart of the argument over whether or not physical requirements should be different for women in order to promote employment equity.

If I am ever leaning out the window of a burning building, I want to be assured the firefighters coming up the ladder are capable of rescuing me, even if the hiring process is discriminatory. I would prefer to know I'm in good hands rather than know I'm in the hands of the token female who beat the system on a technicality.

In this latest human rights ruling, Tawney Meiorin is that token female. She is the 32-year-old B.C. forest fire-

fighter who lost her job because she was 49.4 seconds too slow. Meiorin, who worked as an elite advance-team firefighter for more than two years, failed to meet the running portion of a test which included a specified number of sit-ups, chin-ups and hose-dragging. After four attempts to complete the required 2.5-km run in 11 minutes, Meiorin was fired. Her running time was 11 minutes 49.4 seconds.

I believe fitness tests are necessary to ensure the person qualified is the person hired for the job, and in the case of Tawney Meiorin, she was unable to meet a standard and therefore was considered unqualified for the job. However, instead of training harder to meet the requirements or accepting the fact she does not have the required level of physical fitness, she screams sexual discrimination.

What she doesn't realize is this: by regaining her job as a firefighter on the grounds of sexual discrimination she puts the lives of the most vulnerable individuals in society at risk. They are the people who find themselves in an emergency situation relying on the police, the fire department or the military to save them. It is not clear how many workplace test standards across the country will now have to be scrapped.

If she had instead attacked the real issue of the tests not being a true reflection of what is physically required of a firefighter, she could have been a key player in making B.C.'s forest firefighting team stronger. Her choice has left her team,

including 686 men and 55 women, at the mercy of the court's decision, which found fitness tests unnecessary in determining whether or not firefighters can execute their job safely and efficiently.

There is no doubt in my mind that I am not physically fit enough to fight a fire; I smoke, I never exercise and I certainly could not carry a 28.5-kilogram pump over a distance of 100 metres without setting it down. But, according to the ruling in this case, my lack of physical fitness does not mean I am unable to carry out the duties of a firefighter in a safe and efficient manner. Would you feel safe if I were a firefighter?

Thankfully, we live in Ontario where we will not be affected by the outcome of this case. Ontario has established a bona fide occupational requirement, the legal term recognized by the Ontario Human Rights Commission, which represents the minimum safe effective requirements of performance.

The Ministry of Natural Resources tested some 250 volunteers, including men, women and minority groups in order to design tests specific to fighting fires. The tests require applicants to simulate forest firefighting tasks, including carrying a 28.5-kilogram pump 100 metres without allowing it to touch the ground, dragging charged fire hoses and carrying a hose pack over set distances.

I am thankful I live in Ontario where my safety will not be jeopardized in order to allow people like Tawney Meiorin to work in non-traditional occupations.

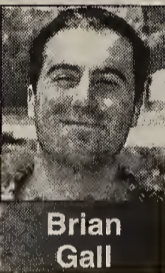
## Rugby getting no coverage

There is not much talk about rugby in this country.

Even though the 1999 Rugby World Cup begins Oct. 1 and Canada has competed in every cup tournament since 1987, both print and television media fail to give the sport the coverage it deserves.

It is not a traditional sport here. When TV screens in Canada are not showing hockey and baseball, they blast us with the bore of football. And let's not even mention the rise in popularity of golf. Nothing could be worse to watch on TV.

It is time for Canadians to open their minds in the sports department. All over the world people recognize rugby as a national sport. Leagues, like we have for hockey and football, easily attract crowds of 50,000 people. Rugby is not a stop-and-start, commercial-filled game like football. It is exciting. Players are in prime condition. You do not see any 300-pound beefcakes huffing and puffing on



Brian Gall

the real-grass pitch.

Karlo Berkovich, sports editor at the K-W Record, said he used to play high school football but now he says he thinks he should have played rugby.

"There's no question who the better athletes are," he said.

As far as covering rugby, Berkovich said he doesn't get any calls from people asking why the Record didn't report a particular rugby event. And if he started to do rugby coverage all of the time, he

It is time for Canadians to open their minds in the sports department.

said his editor would wonder why he was covering it so much.

An audience of over two billion people watched Rugby World Cup '95. But the numbers that matter to local media are in North America, according to Tim Doyle, former sports editor at the Hamilton Spectator.

Doyle said rugby itself doesn't get much coverage here because there is a lack of interest and knowledge in the sport. And regarding the world cup, an event which occurs only every four years, he said as it gets closer fans will notice previews.

"But it's a world event. Papers have to keep it in mind. Just because it's not hockey doesn't mean it is not important," Doyle said. He added that most fans will turn to television if they are interested.

CTV Sports Net has the rights to broadcast the world cup in Canada this year, so stations like TSN are not permitted to show games. Sports Net will televise 41 games, including all of Canada's action.

This is a huge improvement for the time being. But as soon as the world cup is over I know it will be another four years before I see much rugby on TV in Canada.

Maybe the media has to look at the interest in the game here and consider that when deciding how much time to spend on it.

On the other hand, maybe I should just move to Scotland.

# SPOKE

## Keeping Conestoga College connected

SPOKE is published and produced weekly by the journalism students of Conestoga College.

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# Majority applaud new Sanctuary

By Beverley Grondin

With every new school year comes change. One of the big changes on campus this year is the expansion of the Sanctuary.

Around 225 sq. metres have been added, the carpet has been removed, there is a bigger games room and there is a kitchen/bar area which will be licensed during special events.

The results of an informal survey conducted on campus Sept. 9, shows that most students are pleased with the new and bigger version of the Sanctuary.

Tricia Faries, a first-year construction engineering student, said compared to last year, the lounge is much improved.

"It's more comfortable and more roomy," said Faries. "I find it a place where you can come sit down more."

Colleen Clark, a first-year social services student, agreed with Faries.

"I think it's a cool place for everybody to hang out and just relax," Clark said.

Nicole Rider, a second-year materials management student, hasn't been in the new Sanctuary yet, but said it looks nice from the hall, even though it is darker than before.

Some students think that the lighting, along with the darker coloured walls, make the lounge too dark.

"When you walk by the lounge every day, it's so dark that you can't even see inside," said John Grewal, a third-year business management studies student. "Personally, I don't like it at all."

Aaron Adams, in third-year business

management studies, agreed with Grewal. Among a list of complaints, Adams also said it is too dark in the lounge.

"It almost makes me want to go to sleep every time I come in here," he said. "I'm probably not going to be in here many more times."

Second-year civil engineering student Jared Puppe said the new lighting gives the lounge a nice atmosphere.

"I haven't really cruised through it," said Puppe. "But from the outside looking in, it looks pretty nice."

John Eardley, a second-year student in the accounting program, is also pleased with the changes made to the student lounge.

"I like it better because the games room is bigger, and there's more room for people for 'free nooners,'" said Eardley, referring to the early afternoon performances, sponsored by the DSA, in the Sanctuary.

Michelle Strassburgur, in her third year of management studies, likes that the carpet has been removed, making the floor easier to clean.

"We got in so much trouble last year for having food and everything in there," said Strassburgur.

She also said with the extra space, the whole room is more relaxed.

The most popular change seems to be the improved games room, which is bigger and located just inside the Sanctuary's Door 2.

"It is good that they put the games in one room," said Rider, "because it got kind of noisy last year with the foosball games."



Jared Puppe



John Eardley



Nicole Rider



John Grewal



## Officers give input at seminar

In photo above, officers from Waterloo region and representatives of the private security sector spoke at a career orientation seminar. Top row (left to right) Cameron Veitch, London Protection International; Gord Miller, retired deputy Chief of Waterloo regional police service; Brian Cunningham, deputy chief of Waterloo regional police; Sgt. Rod Curran, training and education officer for Guelph police service; Rene Beaulieu, London Protection International; Sgt. Barry Zehr, human resources for Waterloo regional police service; Const. Doug Pflug, Guelph police service; Sean Burger, London Protection International; Joe Strgar, account services team and corporate resource group for Intercon Security; Lisa Vollmar, deputy chief of Guelph police service; Don Douglas, co-ordinator of police foundations/LASA programs. Bottom row (left to right) Gerry Gibson, deputy registrar private investigator and security guards section for OPP; Doug Henrich, ISO 9000 co-ordinator for Intercon Security; Kelly Strickler, loss prevention investigator for Zehrs markets; Zara Thurgood, human resources specialist; Pat Leonard, branch manager for King-Reed & Associates; Bruce Bjorkquist, faculty. Absent: Patty Rose, supervisor of loss prevention. Above right photo (left to right) Brian Cunningham, deputy chief of Waterloo regional police service; Sgt. Barry Zehr, human resources for Waterloo regional police service; Gord Miller, retired deputy chief of Waterloo regional police service.



Photos by Leslie Turnbull

### Letter to the editor:

## Tell the full story

Your article titled "From bathrooms to bar: A survival guide to life at Conestoga College" in the orientation issue of Spoke was a great idea yet was lacking in research.

Your clubs section did not even mention existing clubs nor give information about how easy it is to form your own club through the Doon Student Association. The section on the DSA was more descriptive but did not stress the importance of class reps or the importance of students participating on the board of directors.

Several associations were not even mentioned. Many programs have their own organizations to be involved in. And what about the Student Athletic Council?

My biggest beef is the sad excuse for an uninformative section on the Conestoga Business Students Association. No one from Spoke had asked anyone from the CBSA what we do or why. The article said "The CBSA is similar to the DSA except it is geared specifically to the business student."

Well, no. And I'm sure the DSA will appreciate this as well. The DSA uses a student activity fee to provide services and entertainment for the students. The CBSA is not responsible for this.

The purpose of the CBSA is to raise

money for needs or special requests of business students, such as: providing funding for the Annual Marketing Competition (which was why the association was founded), to subsidize the Annual Business Awards Banquet (to make it affordable for all students to attend and to support those nominated), the recent purchase of the industrial ratios database package in the LRC, and a request by the management department for a trophy case to display their achievements.

The CBSA has an elected executive who meet with class reps every two weeks to maintain communication and participation throughout the school of business. The executive is a volunteer position and the executive works for the experience, receiving no pay or bursary for their time.

A little more research could have been done in the article to clearly explain to students the details of several clubs, associations, organizations, and committees. It was great of Spoke to point out the locations of washrooms. I'm sure students appreciate the directions. Did you need to fill space that bad?

Teresa Bricker  
CBSA promotions co-ordinator  
third-year marketing

## COUNSELLOR'S CORNER: Roommates

Sharing living space with a stranger, or even a friend, can be quite different from living with your family. Things as simple as how long you stay in the shower or where to keep the potato chips can cause tensions between people who aren't used to living together. So how can you ease the transition from family life to living with a roommate?

One way to avoid conflicts is to establish some ground rules. For instance, does it drive you nuts if the dirty dishes are still in the sink the next morning? Or do you have a "high dirt tolerance" that will have your roommate gnashing her teeth by the end of September?

Some areas to discuss include:

- space: private versus common areas
- food costs: shared? designated fridge space?
- quiet hours for morning, study time and at night
- guest policy

Living with a roommate isn't all about rules and compromises, but it'll be much easier to set guidelines now, before you start getting on each other's nerves.

*A Message from Student Services (Room 2B02).*

# Book holds unexpected advice

By Walerian Czarnecki

It is 208 years old and it will have existed in four different centuries come the 21st century.

It was established in 1792 by Robert B. Thomas and is the oldest continually published periodical in North America.

The 2000 edition is the first Old Farmer's Almanac since 1888 without a nine in the title. The Almanac's circulation across North America will be 4.4 million copies, and the Canadian edition came out Sept. 14.

Instead of being encyclopedic and dry, people can count on it for entertainment, said Deb Keller, senior associate editor.

It has useful and entertaining information, in addition to the astronomical data and weather predictions, said Keller.

For example, older VCR models can't be programmed due to the Y2K problem. But don't throw them out, the Almanac says. Just set the VCR back to 1972. The days of the week have the same dates as in 2000.

If you want to make a time capsule to celebrate the millennium, the best advice that the Almanac gives is not to bury it. More than 80 per cent are lost that way, because where they were buried is often forgotten. Corona, Calif., has lost track of 17 different capsules, that date back to the 1930s.

In 1960, the average household

spent 64 days worth of income on its annual food bill. In 1999, it took only 40 days, worth to pay the tab.

A lot of people can eat whatever they like and never gain weight. This can be done by fidgeting. Bouncing a leg while sitting, tapping a pencil, or any other such fidgeting can potentially work off an extra 1,000 calories a day. But you have to be a natural fidgeter for that to benefit you.

Can watching sports from the couch affect you? The Almanac reports that testosterone levels go up 20 per cent in men when the team they cheer for wins, or it goes down 20 per cent if their team loses.

We are all looking forward to the millennium and all the celebrations that come with the year 2000. But that is just a man-made number. If we go by other systems, we missed the year 2000 or are still waiting for it. If we're Jewish, it is the year 5761. The Japanese are at year 2660. In the Islamic dating system, it's only 1421.

If we really care about the millennium, then it begins in 2001. Pope John I asked Dionysius Exiguus to revise the Julian calendar. He started year 1 from the best known date of Jesus' birth. So the year 1280 A.U.C. (which means from the founding of Rome), changed to the year 525 A.D.

In 731 A.D., a monk known as Venerable Bede used anno Domini or A.D. and began to use B.C. for years before Christ. But he forgot to add a zero between 1 B.C. and 1 A.D.

"It has such useful and entertaining information."

Deb Keller, senior associate editor

The Almanac also points out that now A.D. has been replaced by Common Era (C.E.), and Before

Common Era (B.C.E.) for B.C.

The Almanac reports that regionalism is popular again. Sociologists have noticed that people are more often refusing to change their ethnic names and are reclaiming the old Gaelic or Polish spellings and pronunciations.

Broadcasters are less likely to lose their native southern or Brooklyn accent in order to sound more blandly professional.

The Almanac also includes planting dates that are important and the Zodiac for those who are interested in entertainment.

"It's been published for so long that people know about it," said Keller. "They trust it."

## Almanac predicts weather for 2000

By Walerian Czarnecki

One of the first things we do in the morning is find out what the weather will be like. The weather, good or bad, affects everyone at Conestoga College.

The Old Farmer's 2000 Almanac, Canadian edition, predicts the weather for the next year. You can find out the forecast, the sunrise, sunset, daylight and moon phases.

"We claim 80 per cent accuracy," said Deb Keller, senior associate editor. "When broken down to individual cities we are far more accurate."

The almanac has two scientists

on staff that help with the predictions and an astronomer to compile the astronomical data.

What kinds of weather forecasts will Conestoga students face in this academic year?

The Almanac stated that September and October will bring needed rain to the east, especially in late September and early October. The last hot weather of the season is expected in the second week of September, with a mild heat spell in early October, before winter takes over southern Ontario.

The first weeks of November will be sunny and warm. The middle of the month will be cool and

rainy. Flurries will hit southern Ontario around the middle of the month and continue till the end of November.

The beginning of December will be sunny and cold with some flurries. Those flurries will change to snow showers by the middle of the month. The end of the month, which includes the winter break, will be mild with snow and rain.

The first week of January, when students are starting the second semester, will be mild with showers. The rest of January will be snowy, then rainy, and then snowy at the end of the month.

February will start off sunny and

cold and change to mild and rainy. Starting Feb. 7 the month will become bitterly cold and snowy.

March will warrant a spring break in Cuba. There will be snow and rain throughout the month. Either way it will not be pleasant weather. The month will finish off mild, with sun and some showers.

April 1 to 3 will showcase flurries for the last time. The month will be warm, but rainy. Spring will finally arrive.

Speaking of the accuracy of the almanac, Keller said that when the predictions for last year's weather were broken down, they were frightfully right.

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**Not exactly  
rocket science  
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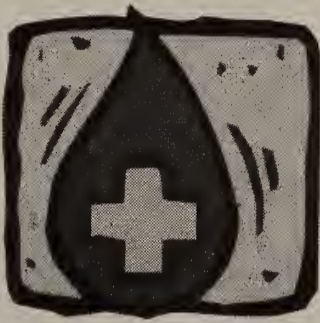
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## BLOOD DONOR CLINIC



Monday, September 29, 1999  
9 a.m. To 5 p.m.  
The Sanctuary.

Give the Gift of Life



## DSA Prescription Drug Plan Opt-Out & Family Opt-In

Opting out deadline is  
Mon., Sept. 20, 1999

Family Opt In deadline is  
Mon., Sept. 20, 1999

All forms must be submitted to the DSA Office  
by the deadline. No exceptions. More  
information is available at the DSA Office.



## STEP by STEP

An organization created to save lives through the awareness  
campaign as to the importance of organ donations.

George Morcello, a former Conestoga College student and a recipient of a liver transplant,  
is walking across Ontario and will be in Kitchener to visit Conestoga College on Sept. 20.



On Monday, September 20, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. a bus will be leaving from  
the College to go to Pioneer Park baseball diamond, where we will walk with  
George to the College where he will speak to the students of Conestoga.  
All students who attend this walk will receive a free t-shirt.

There will be a large variety of events, and exciting games going on  
all day Monday in The Sanctuary.

The MORE (Multiple Organ Retrieval and Exchange) Card  
will be available on Monday, during the days events, or in the DSA office.  
For more information, contact Steve Coleman in the DSA office at 748-5131  
or call Step by Step at 1-800-563-5483.



Conestoga College is the first educational institution in Ontario  
to take part in this important cause. Together as a team, we  
encourage all Canadians to donate their organs to save lives.



## DAN VALKOS

## PSYCHIC READINGS

SEPTEMBER 28, 1999

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

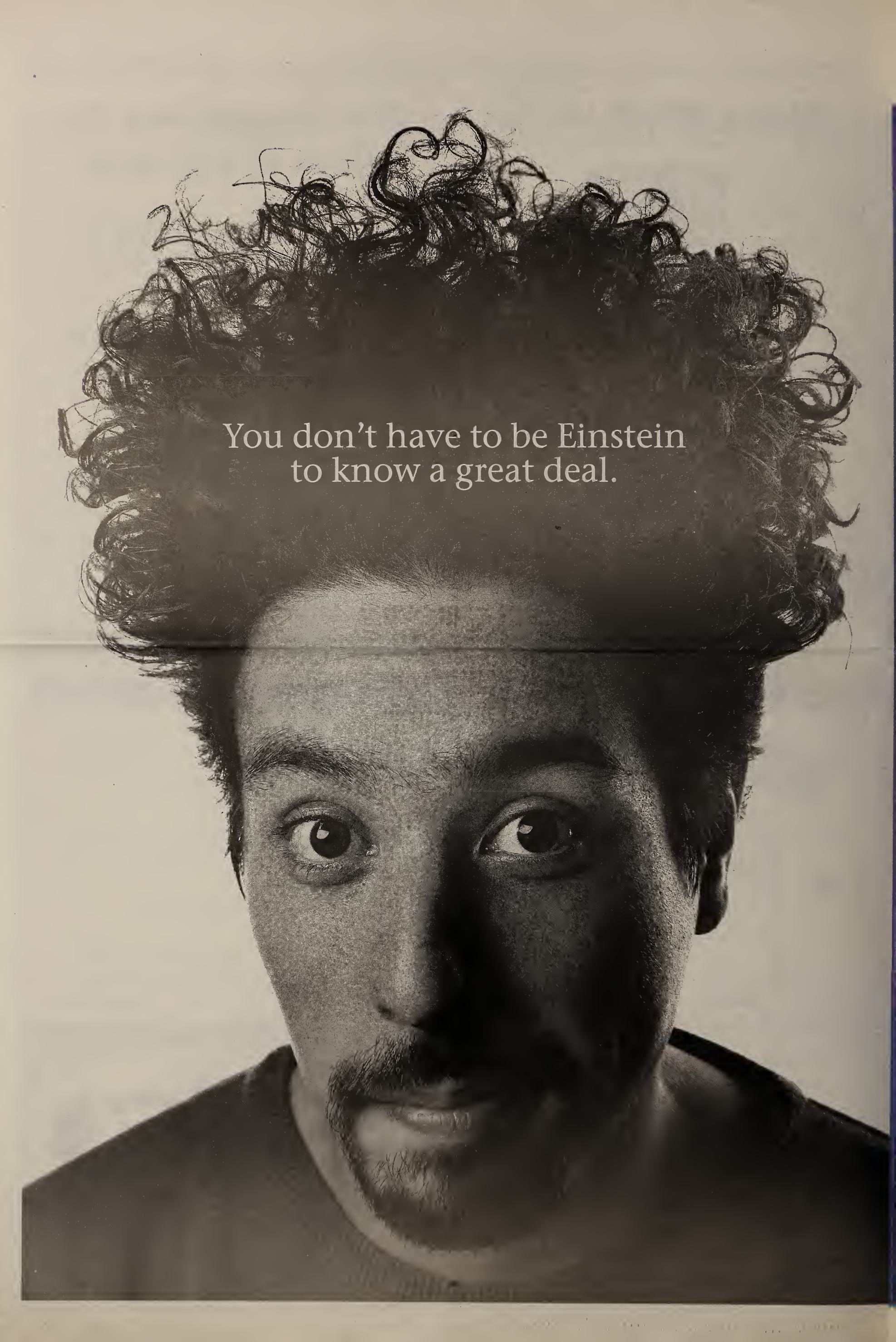
THE SANCTUARY



Saturday, September 25  
8:30 a.m. Departure

Tickets \$25, includes coachline transportation  
Doon Campus students are permitted 1 guest  
Tickets on Sale August 30, 1999





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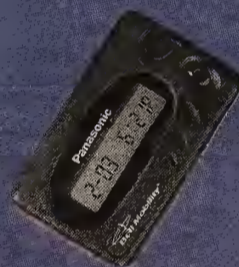
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# No nurses to graduate in 2004

By Mike Radatus

Even though enrolment is up 53 per cent at Ontario nursing schools, Ontario hospitals face two major problems — too few nurses and the loss of nurses to the United States.

The majority of nurses in Ontario are graduates of community colleges however, in the year 2004, there will be no nurses graduating from colleges because the nursing program at Ontario colleges is changing from a three-year program to a four-year program.

Nursing programs at Conestoga College, Mohawk College and McMaster University will combine to create a program that will enable college students to receive diploma.

This causes a problem for hospitals in 2004 because most of the baby boomers, whose average age is 43 to 45, will have retired.

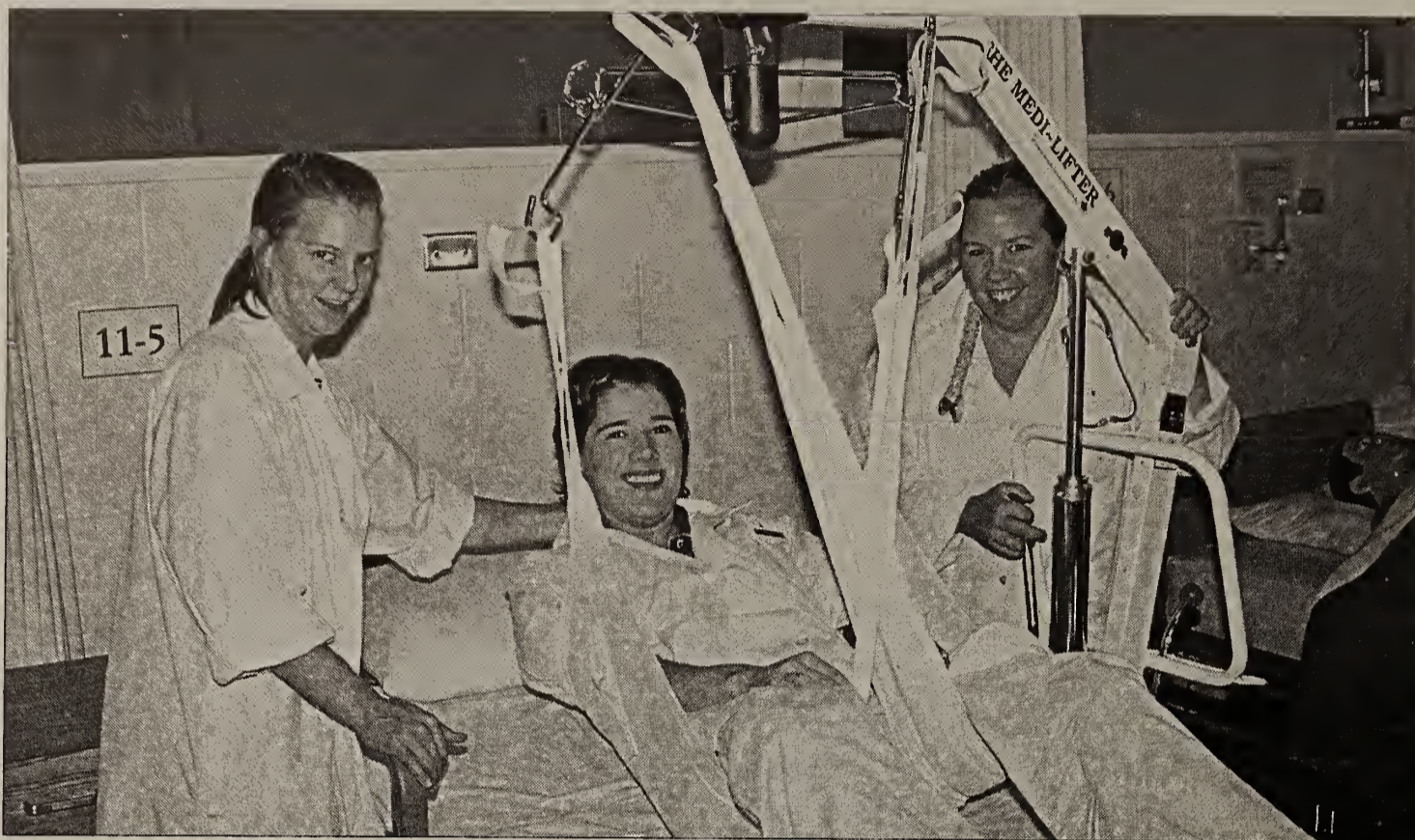
This will increase the demand for nurses in a year when fewer nurses will be graduating.

Bill Jeffrey, dean of health and community services, says college grads make up 85 per cent of nurses and in 2004 there will be a lack of qualified nurses to choose from.

"Times are going back to the way it used to be when you could hand out six resumes and hear from all six," said Jeffrey.

Community colleges graduate nearly 2,300 nursing graduates per year and that number will be missed in 2004.

This is not only a problem for Ontario, but also the rest of



Eliza Kempel (left to right), Mary Ellen Bridle and Jill Cherryholme demonstrate skills they learned in the nursing program.

(Photo by Mike Radatus)

Canada.

"Look at up north. They're always short on nurses because people don't want to live up there," Jeffrey said. "Why live with the cold weather if you can live in Florida or Texas with the same job?"

Nurses seeking employment in the United States is the other

major problem.

They are frustrated with the lack of jobs in Ontario and employment across the border looks appealing.

"The U.S. is grabbing our grads by the handful," Jeffrey said.

Graduates from college nursing programs who work in the States can obtain a degree as they work

and nursing jobs are plentiful.

Julie Whetstone, a graduate of the Conestoga College nursing program, said she believes Ontario nurses will have more job opportunities after the baby boomers retire, but she is still thinking of going to the United States to work.

"There's been a lot of talk about

more jobs but I haven't seen any yet, and beds are still being cut," she said.

Whetstone says that the United States is looking like a good place to find a job.

"You can get higher pay, more training and they pay for experience. That looks good on a resume," she said.

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# CAREER FAIR '99

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

10:00am - 3:00 pm

Bingeman Park Conference Centre

Victoria Street, Kitchener

- Final year students - employers actually start recruiting final year students in September. Wouldn't it be great to have a job all ready to go to once you've completed your program?
- For first and second year students - attend the Fair to research employers, careers, and to learn what skills are required for success in your chosen career.
- On September 29, over 200 employers will be under one roof, eager to talk to you and to review your resume. Don't miss this big, busy, exciting event!!
- For a listing of attending employers, pick up a copy of **The Employer Guidebook** on September 22, in **The Student Employment Office - Room 2B04**.

\* This is a business-like event ... please dress appropriately \*



## 10 Steps for successful attendance at:

### Career Fair '99

1. Wear business-like attire
2. Research the employers
3. Have your resume critiqued (at the Student Employment Office) prior to the Fair, and have lots of copies on the day
4. Go through the Fair alone
5. Attend the Fair early enough to see all the employers you want to contact
6. Have questions ready; see the Employer Guidebook for some ideas
7. Be courteous and patient ....smile!
8. Watch your language and behaviour as you travel through the Fair
9. Prepare a short "commercial" about yourself
10. HAVE A GOOD TIME!!!

# Lounge won't become pub

By Jeanette Everall

The Sanctuary may become a fully licensed area in the near future, but the new license doesn't mean students will be able to toss back a beer during their lunch hour. Increasing the number of licensed events on campus is not the driving force behind the Doon Student Association's (DSA) push to license the lounge; rather, they are trying to save money.

"We are not trying to change the Sanctuary into a pub," says DSA's entertainment manager Patty Stokes. "We are trying to save the money we spend on the special occasion permits."

According to the DSA's liquor license proposal presented to college administration in August, the DSA is currently budgeting to

spend \$1,200 on special occasion permits in the 1999-2000 academic school term. The permits allow the DSA to serve alcoholic beverages at events held at the college in areas not licensed for the sale of alcohol. If the DSA is successful in its attempt to license the Sanctuary, the cost to license events would be \$1,055 initial start up fee and \$450 every three years. Stokes says, in the long run, the DSA will save money.

"The issue isn't to hold more alcoholic events," says Kevin Mullan, Conestoga's vice-president of finance and administrative operations. "It's a means of making it administratively easier for the DSA to hold events."

In order for the DSA to serve liquor at organized events, Stokes says the DSA must purchase a \$75 special occasion per-

mit 30 days in advance of the event. Consequently, if the event is cancelled and/or rescheduled the DSA loses the initial \$75 and must re-apply and purchase another permit. If the Sanctuary was fully licensed, events could be rescheduled without the cost of purchasing additional special occasion permits and the hassle of applying for the permits 30 days in advance, says Stokes.

"The DSA has set some guidelines for the (number) of licensed events," she says.

If the Sanctuary becomes a fully licensed facility, she says the DSA will continue to hold no more than two licensed events per month.

"Alcohol isn't the main focus of events," says Stokes. "If we (have) a high calibre of entertainers, students will come out to the

events. Alcohol is not a necessity."

This lack of focus on alcohol at DSA-organized events is exactly what Brenda Jodouin, Waterloo Region's president of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), would like to see more of in post-secondary institutions.

"I think there is too much of a focus on needing alcohol to have a good time," says Jodouin, whose daughter was killed by a drunk driver six years ago. Jodouin says she knows how much fun college can be, but she is also aware of the problems with excessive alcohol and drug abuse at colleges and universities.

"Requiring alcohol at events should be soft sold instead of the hard sell, where you are told that alcohol is needed to have a good time," says Jodouin.

# First group enters new police program

By Nicole Furlong

Twenty-one of Ontario's 23 colleges, including Conestoga, are introducing a new sector to their law and security administration programs called police foundations, this fall.

All applied arts students entering the law and security administration/police foundations program must complete a common first year.

Students seeking work related to government jobs, investigation services, etc. branch off to law and security administration in their second year.

Students who are interested in public policing enter the police

foundations program after they have met the requirements.

To attain a position in police foundations, students must pass a physical fitness test, a general aptitude test battery (GATB) and must achieve strong academic marks in their first year.

Forty students were accepted into the inaugural year of the program.

Don Douglas, program coordinator, strongly endorses the two-year program for anyone looking to become a



police officer, however, he warns students not to expect an easy workload.

Douglas said the study load is equivalent to a first-year university Bachelor of Arts degree.

Because this is a new curriculum, he expects the program will be a challenge to both students and staff.

Conestoga's president John Tibbits said there was a large demand from students to introduce this program, and now that it's here, everyone is excited about it.

"This will allow us to have a real police focus for those who are interested in police studies," he said, adding that those interested

in other aspects of law still have the option of the law and security administration program.

"This is a good thing for the college as well as the community," Tibbits said.

Most of the teachers in the program are either on a police force or have recently retired from a force, which means the program faculty is up-to-date.

"Conestoga has established an excellent relationship with the Stratford, Guelph and Waterloo police forces," Douglas said.

In addition to this being the initial year for the program, four Conestoga police foundations instructors are currently writing textbooks for the program, which

will be utilized by all provincial colleges beginning next fall.

Kirsty Bradley, a second-year law and security/police foundations student at Conestoga, said she is very excited about what this type of training could mean for her future.

"This program is not just lectures, there's a lot of practical work as well," she said.

Bradley said students are expected to go to Guelph police services to assist them in their training.

She added her class must complete a 1fi-mile run around campus grounds twice a week as part of the intense physical aspect of the course.

*"I have a great paying job, a workplace that appreciates and respects me because of the uniqueness of my education, and a future that brings a smile to my face..."*

**Scott O'Neil, TMIP Graduate '99**

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Web site: www3.sympatico.ca/thre



**Textiles Human Resources Council**  
**Conseil des ressources humaines de l'industrie du textile**

Meet with our representatives at the Career Fair at Bingemans Conference Centre  
Wednesday, September 29 -- 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

## Student Services Study Skills Workshops Fall 1999

Facilitator: Shawna Bernard

No Registration Required

Topic	Date	Time	Room
Study Tips and Techniques	Mon., Sept. 27	11:30-12:30	3A505
	Thur., Sept. 30	12:30-1:30	3B14
Time Management	Mon., Oct. 4	11:30-12:30	3A505
	Thur., Oct. 7	12:30-1:30	3B14
Multiple Choice Test-taking	Mon., Oct. 18	12:30-1:30	2A411
	Thur., Oct. 21	12:30-1:30	3B14
Tips on Making Presentations	Mon., Nov. 1	11:30-12:30	3A620
	Thur., Nov. 4	12:30-1:30	1D17
Preparing for Final Exams	Mon., Nov. 29	11:30-12:30	3A620
	Thur., Dec. 2	12:30-1:30	1D17
	Mon., Dec. 6	12:30-1:30	2A411

If you have any questions or concerns, please come to Student Services, Rm 2B02.

# Want to improve your memory?

Learning disability specialist says students must recite information over and over again

By Linda Wright

Visual or audio, how does your memory work best? If you're a student with a learning disability, memory may be an obstacle to your learning and there is no quick fix.

Barry Cull, learning disability specialist with special needs services, can assist students with learning disabilities to develop their memory so they can meet the challenges of college.

Cull has three roles. His first role is a psychological associate. Cull performs a psycho-educational assessment on students to indicate a learning disability when a disability is suspected.

Cull is also an instructor/counselor who teaches a course called

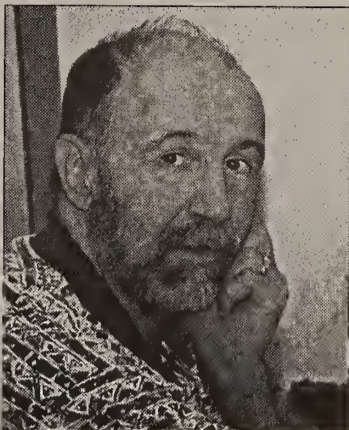
Strategies for Student Success that is specifically for students with a learning disability. The course teaches the students how to achieve success with a learning disability. Cull offers one-on-one advice on different strategies according to the individuals' needs.

"The students will ask me, 'What is the easiest way I can improve my memory?'"

One strategy Cull suggests is for the student to recite information over and over. Memory is improved by rehearsal.

"You are thinking about thinking," said Cull.

Writing information on three- by five-inch cards, with the question on one side and the answer on the other, is a way to improve



Barry Cull, learning disability specialist.

study skills. The strategy can be used when a student is waiting in line, or sitting on a bus or whenever

there is spare time. The students simply pull out the cards and study, said Cull.

"When you know the material 100 per cent, don't stop, over learn," suggests Cull.

The student shouldn't stop until he/she has perfected it a few times in a row, which will help the student retain the information. The self-test, which involves seeing how many correct questions were answered, is an important way to check thinking.

Cull said that the students will lose five per cent of what they remembered with over learning and should allow for that at exam time. For example, if, after the self-test, the student knows all of the material, then at exam time they can expect to recall 95 per

cent of the information.

Cull tells the students there is no quick fix. Hard work and time is required.

Cull's final role is to advise faculty on how to recognize learning disabilities. Cull informs the teacher on what measures can be taken to assist the student. Then Cull, the student and the teacher will discuss strategies to meet the student's needs. For example, material on tapes might prove useful to the student who is a slow note-taker.

Workshops are held for teachers to inform them about learning disabilities, said Cull. The workshops inform teachers on how to distinguish between a learning-disabled student and a student who is just lazy.

## Seeing a ghost



Sarah Sleeman, played by Earla Vickers, was shocked when she was asked what she thinks about her former home, now the Manor Motor Motel bar and strip club. The spirit walk, a tribute to dead heroes, was held on Sept. 12 at Woodlawn Cemetery in Guelph.

(Photo by Linda Wright)

## Phone lines needed for Internet

By Tannis Fenton

Students who were hoping to have Golden Triangle On-Line provide their Internet service in residence had better think again.

Rodeway Suites does not allow its residents to use its phone lines for Internet access.

"Students have to get their own phone line," said Dylan Morgan, general manager of Rodeway Suites, because the Internet ties up all the phone lines at the residence.

Students who require Internet access can get it if they get their own phone line.

Bell Canada charges \$65 to install a new phone line, \$55 to activate it and approximately \$30 for monthly basic service.

Jeff Lotz, a first-year engineering student, says it's unfair to students who need the Internet for school.

"We don't have a lot of money to throw around," said Lotz.

Six students from Rodeway

Suites signed up for Golden Triangle's services and found they weren't allowed Internet access on phone lines at the residence.

Tonja Percival, a 22-year-old residential sales representative for the Kitchener Internet service provider, said this created chaos

for her. She had to process refunds for all the students who had paid up to \$130 for Internet service. They will have to wait about a week for their refunds.

Students can access the Internet free of charge however, at several Conestoga College computer labs.

### The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Craft and Hobby Show/Sale

DON'T LEAVE IT TO THE LAST MINUTE!!

Start working on those crafts for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Craft and Hobby Show/Sale to be held on Thursday, November 18, 1999, Doon Campus, in the main cafeteria from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Vendor applications will be available to present employees, students, retirees and immediate family members of present employees. Vendor table fee will be \$10 per vendor with a maximum of two participants per table.

Please contact Erica Stoermer at extension 399 for more information.

## Learning Resource Centre Doon Campus

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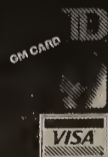
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# My Dick:

## Comedian teaches tolerance with humour

By Beverley Grondin

My Dick (and other manly tales) appeared in the Sanctuary Thursday, Sept. 9 before an unsuspecting crowd.

The show was performed by Norman Nawrocki, who walked through the crowd dressed as a woman in a sparkling gold wig, a colourful housecoat and big, artificial breasts. Carrying a flashlight in one hand and a red handbag in the other, "Mrs. Robinson" was looking for something.

Her clitoris.

In the next sketch Nawrocki became "Chris", who explained his first sexual experience with a woman.

For the first few sketches, the subject matter was light-hearted and humorous, but that was just to warm the audience up.

Nawrocki was really there to deal with homophobia.

He said he doesn't advertise that the show deals with homosexuality because he wants to attract people who are most uncomfortable about it.

He said there are many people who don't want to even discuss homosexuality because it makes them uncomfortable.

This became apparent to him while he was doing his last show, I Don't Understand Women, which dealt with sexism. During the performance, one of the characters comes out as bisexual.

"After the show people came up to me, all across the country, and told me 'Wow, great show, but that stuff about homosexuality, we don't want to hear that. Take that out of your show,'" said Nawrocki.

He realized people needed to open their eyes and minds.

"I spent three years interviewing hundreds of people - gay, straight, bi(sexual), old, young - to get material for the show," he said. "All of the stories told in the show are true stories."

There were accounts from students at different schools who claim they couldn't have gay and lesbian clubs on their campuses because offices would be vandalized and some students received death threats, said the actor and former journalist.

Joan Magazine, of the Conestoga College Women's Resource Group, says they decided to co-sponsor Nawrocki's show with the DSA

when they found out that it dealt with homophobia.

"We saw that as tying into the violence in our society," says Magazine, "because sometimes people who are homophobic use violence or hate to hurt that group."

The funding from the Women's Resource Group came from a grant for campus safety for women from the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

Magazine, also a counsellor with student services at the college, says that she is not sure of the magnitude of any problems with homophobia at

Conestoga, although she said that if it exists in the general population, then it exists on this campus.

She says she doesn't think that anybody would get beaten in the halls, as might happen in Victoria Park.

"But I'm sure that there is gay bashing, I'm sure there are jokes that get told," says Magazine. "I think if you knew any gay or lesbian people on campus and asked them would they be comfortable (with sharing) their sexual

"After the show people came up to

me, all across the country, and

told me, 'Wow, great show,

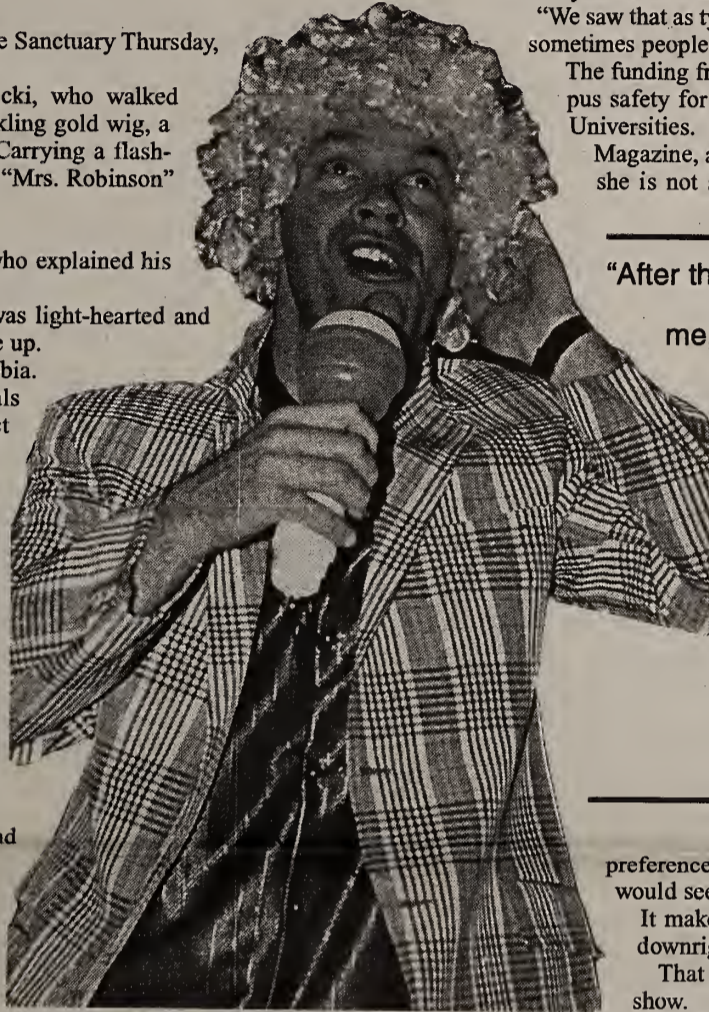
but that stuff about homo-

sexuality, we don't want to

hear that. Take that out of

your show."

*Norman Nawrocki,  
on the audiences' reaction  
to previous shows*



Norman Nawrocki plays a gay sports broadcaster excitedly describing the play-by-play of a fictional football game in My Dick (and other manly tales) in the Sanctuary Thursday, Sept. 9. During the sketch the character lets slip his appreciation of the homo-erotic elements of the game.

(Photo by Beverley Grondin)

preference with their classmates, or talking about it in class, I think you would see some fear or concern about coming out."

It makes a lot of people uncomfortable, and some people think it's downright sinful and disgusting, says Magazine.

That is one belief that Nawrocki is trying to dispel through his show.

He said he wants people to understand that they should be respectful of everyone around them, regardless of their colour, gender, or sexual orientation.

"And don't assume everybody around you is straight," said Nawrocki.

He said that it is important to create safe places where people will feel welcome.

"We'll learn that diversity is a good thing in our lives," he said.

## "Weird Al" just gets weirder and weirder

By Angela Clayfield

Just when you thought "Weird Al" Yankovic couldn't get any weirder, the gonzo artist releases Running With Scissors and is now officially stranger.

This collection of parodies and original work has something to offer to everyone's musical tastes, with styles ranging from Yankovic's own obnoxious brand of polka to industrial akin to Nine Inch Nails.

From the cover art to the last track, there are non-stop giggles, smirks and yes, even guffaws. But, bear in mind that you need a fairly open-minded sense of humour to enjoy a "Weird Al" creation.

Some people might think his parody of Pretty Fly for a White Guy, by the Offspring, would be a tad offensive, but that's not his style. There is nothing slanderous or anti-Semitic about Pretty Fly for a Rabbi. If anything, he plays up the stereotype with

phrases like, "I'm so ferklept that I could plotz."

If you're one of the few people in the world who hasn't seen the movie Episode One: The Phantom Menace, then the first track, The Saga Begins, will explain the plot to you in plain English to the tune of American Pie, by Don McLean.

Some of the best parodies on this album include Jerry Springer, to the tune of One Week, by Barenaked Ladies and It's All About the Pentiums, originally called It's All About the Benjamins, by Puff Daddy and the family. In both cases, only the words are different since Yankovic sounds almost like the real thing.

Among his original work on this album is a song called Your Horoscope for Today, which can only be described as musical slapstick. You'll need a good taste for the bizarre and the unexpected to find humour in this track. Also featured is a 10-

minute song, for the most part, about Albuquerque. This one is beyond description.

Just keep reminding yourself that it's a "Weird Al" creation and you'll be fine.

His sample of industrial music, Germs, would pass unnoticed in a nightclub as a legitimate song if it weren't for the lyrics making fun of people who are excessively clean.

And you haven't lived until you've heard the polka versions of Intergalactic, by the Beastie Boys, Ray of Light, by Madonna and The Dope Show, by Marilyn Manson. They're all part of Polka Power, a medley of recent pop and rock songs.

If you're bored or depressed and you need a good laugh, Running With Scissors is the cure. At the very least you will find yourself with one eyebrow raised, shaking your head and giggling because no one else can do what "Weird Al" does and get away with it.



"Weird Al" Yankovic as seen in his CD art.



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